

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

A telephone interview between the Examiner and Messrs. Dennis M. Smid (one of applicant's undersigned attorneys) and Theo Kountotsis (one of applicant's patent agents) was held on June 21, 2004. The applicant and Messrs. Smid and Kountotsis wish to thank the Examiner for her time and consideration for such interview.

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-14 and 16-21 and amended claims 1, 8 and 15 are in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11, 14, 15, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuzumi (U.S. Patent No. 5,845,066) in view of Kawaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,557,771).

Amended independent claim 1 now recites in part as follows:

"A memory apparatus comprising...**a conversion table which includes logic addresses which are assigned only to blocks in said first storage region and are not assigned to (i) defective blocks and (ii) non-defective blocks in said second storage region.**" (Underlining and bold added for emphasis.)

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein as discussed during the June 21st telephone interview. During such interview, the Examiner indicated that independent claim 1 as presented herein is distinguishable over the applied combination of Fukuzumi and Kawaguchi.

Accordingly, independent claim 1, as presented herein, is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Fukuzumi and Kawaguchi.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to amended independent claim 1, independent claims 8 and 15 as presented herein are also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Fukuzumi and Kawaguchi.

Claims 2, 4-7, 11, 14, 18 and 21 are dependent from one of amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Fukuzumi and Kawaguchi for at least the reasons previously described.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11, 14, 15, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuzumi in view of Kawaguchi and further in view of Estrakhri (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,435).

Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are dependent from one of amended independent claims 8 and 15 and due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Fukuzumi and Kawaguchi for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to rely on Estrakhri to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Fukuzumi and Kawaguchi. Therefore, claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Fukuzumi, Kawaguchi and Estrakhri.

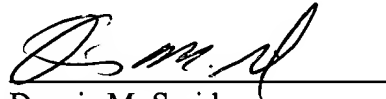
Applicant therefore respectfully requests the rejection of claims 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference or references, there is the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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